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3 MAR 1959

Admiral Arleigh Burke
Chief of Naval Operations
Department of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Arleigh:

Reference is made to your letter of 8 January, 1959, enclosing a Navy staff study, together with ONI comments, on the subject of exploiting possible differences between the USSR and the People's Republic of China. I wrote you an interim reply on 12 January.

As you undoubtedly have been advised, General Erskine chaired a meeting in his office on 19 February which was attended by Admiral William Miller and Captain George Baring, both of your office, and Messrs. [redacted] of my staff. I am told that at the meeting there was a detailed discussion of the Navy suggestions, which incidentally we considered constructive and useful, and the CIA representatives indicated that they would be glad to consider and discuss any further specific recommendations along similar lines. As we pointed out, we have a number of efforts devoted to achieving the objectives suggested by the Navy study and new ideas are always welcome.

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I also understand that General Erskine proposes, as a result of the discussion, to bring the Navy suggestions to the attention of Mr. Quarles in order that he can consider the possibility that U.S. policy should be amended to call for an even stronger effort toward encouraging or aggravating Sino-Soviet friction than now directed. In my opinion, no such review is necessary but I have, of course, no objection to the point being raised with Mr. Quarles. Let me, however, refer you to the recent National Intelligence Estimate on the "Main Trends in Soviet Capabilities and Policies, 1958-1963" (NIE 11-4-58) in which we conclude that the parallelism of material, strategic and ideological interests will continue to weigh decisively in favor of cementing the alliance between the USSR and the PRC even though frictions over a variety of questions may from time to time make the relationship a sensitive and difficult one.

STATE, NAVY review(s) completed.

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At any rate, thanks again for your interest, and please let me know if you have any further comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

cc: DDCI

Signature Recommended:

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Deputy Director (Plans)

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